



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

17 NOVEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Los Angeles – Men Collected Ransom Payments for People Kidnapped Near US-Mexico Border

(U) Two Los Angeles County men were found guilty of collecting ransom payments for the release of people kidnapped near the United States-Mexico border, officials said. Kidnappers would offer to help with smuggling the victims across the US border from Mexico, then hold them for ransom instead, according to the US Attorney's Office in the Central District of California. The kidnappers would then reach out to the victims' families, demanding money for their release. The ransom payments picked up ranged from \$12,000 to \$30,000 in cash.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [KTLA5](#)

(U) San Fernando Valley – Couple Sentenced to Prison for Fraudulently Obtaining COVID Relief

(U) A California couple who fled before sentencing in a \$20 million COVID-19 relief fraud case will face years in prison when they are recaptured, federal officials say. US District Judge Stephen V. Wilson sentenced Richard Ayvazyan, 43, to 17-years in prison and Marietta Terabelian, 37, to six-years in prison, for their roles in the scam. Ayvazyan and Terabelian cut off their ankle monitors and fled their home in August after being convicted in June. The scammers fraudulently obtained more than \$20 million in Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loan funds intended for COVID-19 relief, prosecutors said.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [Fresno Bee](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – 233 Fentanyl Pills Seized at Highway 111 Checkpoint

(U) Niland – El Centro Sector Border Patrol agents arrested a United States citizen accused of smuggling 233 fentanyl pills through an immigration checkpoint. A Border Patrol K-9 detection team alerted to the vehicle as it approached the checkpoint. Agents proceeded to inspect the interior of the vehicle and discovered a clear plastic bag containing blue colored pills in the glove box of the vehicle. While interviewing the driver he claimed he had more pills in his boot and that the other pills found in the glove box also belonged to him. The pills tested positive for fentanyl and are valued at \$5,825.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – Suspects at Large After Drive-By Shooting at Park Sends Six Teens to Hospital

(U) Aurora – Six teenagers were wounded in a shooting involving multiple suspects at a small park close to a high school in Aurora, Colorado, police Chief Vanessa Wilson said. Six students who attend nearby Aurora Central High School went to the hospital. The victims were a 14-year-old boy, a 15-year-old girl, a 16-year-old boy, a 16-year-old girl, a 17-year-old boy and an 18-year-old male, police said. Wilson said investigators found shell casings from different caliber guns and witnesses said there were multiple suspicious vehicles.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [CNN](#)

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(U) Mississippi – Man Posted Online about Planning 'Mass Murder' at Church, Authorities Say

(U) Jackson – Ryan Evans, 20, from Mississippi has been arrested and charged with making a terroristic threat after he posted on social media about planning "a mass murder" at his church, authorities said. The Lee County Sheriff's Department said it received a tip from the FBI that prompted an investigation into Evans and his activity on social media. "Upon further investigation it was determined an individual made a comment on a social media platform that he was planning "a mass murder" at his church the next Sunday. The post was not specific as to which church, just that it was his church. Evans has been charged with making a terroristic threat, a felony, and is being held in Lee County Detention Center on a \$100,000 bond.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) Virginia – Charlottesville Organizer Sought to Mislead Police about Size of 2017 Protest

(U) Charlottesville – Messages presented in a federal court appear to show an organizer of the deadly Unite the Right rally in Charlottesville instructing supporters to mislead law enforcement about the potential size of the 2017 protest. Jason Kessler is one of two dozen defendants testifying in a federal civil trial to determine whether they engaged in a conspiracy to commit racially motivated violence. The weekend turned deadly when a self-avowed Hitler admirer rammed his car into a crowd of counter protesters, killing one and injuring dozens. Lawyers for the plaintiffs showed jurors leaked messages that appear to show organizers and their followers planning violence.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [WHSV3](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Wife of Jalisco New Generation Cartel Leader Arrested

(U) Mexico City – Mexican soldiers have captured the wife of the leader of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, authorities said. In a joint statement, the Attorney General's Office, Defense Department, and National Intelligence Center said that Rosalinda "N" was captured in Zapopan, Jalisco. It said she was allegedly involved in the illicit finances of organized crime in Jalisco. The woman arrested was Rosalinda González Valencia, the wife of Jalisco cartel leader Nemesio "El Mencho" Oseguera. The government said the arrest was "a significant hit" against the cartel's financial structure. González Valencia was previously arrested in May 2018, but later released.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [ABC News](#)

(U) Nigeria – Gunmen Kill 15 in Latest Attack

(U) Lagos – Gunmen have killed at least 15 people in Nigeria's northwest, the Sokoto state governor said. The gunmen stormed communities in Sokoto state and raided houses, Governor Aminu Tambuwal said in a statement, just days after nearly 30 people were shot dead across remote communities. At least 13 people were killed in Illela, a town near the border with neighboring Niger, he said, adding that two others were killed in Goronyo, east of the state capital.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) Uganda – Suicide Attacks Kill Three, Injure Dozens

(U) Kampala – Three attackers on motorbikes detonated their devices in the streets near parliament and the city's police headquarters. Officials blamed the attacks on the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), an armed group based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The attacks came within three minutes of each other. More bombs have been found in other parts of the city, officials said. A fourth attacker has been arrested and an explosive vest recovered, police said. Two policemen were among the dead. Thirty-three others were injured in the blasts, including five critically.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [BBC](#)

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(U) United Kingdom – Liverpool Taxi Bombing Suspect Named as Police Release Four Men

(U) London – Emad Al Swealmeen, 32, a suspected bomber who died when his homemade device exploded in a taxi outside a Liverpool hospital was an asylum-seeker from the Middle East who had converted from Islam to Christianity, British police said. Police have called the blast a terrorist act and believe the dead man built the bomb, but they are still working to determine his motive, how the attack was planned, and whether anyone else was involved. Four men in their 20s who had been detained under the Terrorism Act as part of the investigation were released.

SOURCE: 16 November 2021, [US News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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